

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled).

30. (Currently amended) A head suspension which supports a data transducer in a data exchange relationship with a storage medium, the head suspension comprising:

a load beam region comprising a substantially planar portion bounded on opposing sides by respective first and second stiffener rails;

a bend region comprising first and second strut members extending from said load beam region;

a mounting region coupled to the first and second strut members to form a central aperture bounded by the mounting region, the first and second strut members and the planar portion of the load beam region; and

a damping material secured to the planar portion of the load beam region between said first and second rails, said material partially spanning the central aperture.

31. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 30, further comprising a damping material support structure which partially supports said layer, the dampening

material support structure comprising a cantilever projection which extends from the planar portion of the load beam region into the central aperture between the first and second struts.

32. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 30, further comprising a head suspended at one end of the planar portion of the load beam region opposite the mounting region.

33. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 30, wherein the mounting region is coupled to a rigid actuator arm.

34. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 30, wherein the damping material is secured to the planar portion of the load beam region symmetrically across a longitudinal axis which bisects the planar portion along a length thereof and terminates at a data transducer supported at a distal end thereof.

35. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 30, wherein the damping material spans a plurality of isolation channels adjacent to the damping material support structure.

36. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 30, further comprising at least one mass adjustment area which extends through the planar portion of the load beam region.

37. (Currently amended) A head suspension which supports a data transducer in a data exchange relationship with a storage medium, comprising:

- a longitudinally extending load beam region which supports the ~~configured to support~~ a data transducer at a first end thereof, said load beam region comprising a substantially planar portion bounded on opposing sides by respective first and second stiffener rails;
- a bend region extending from the load beam region opposite the data transducer and comprising spaced apart, first and second strut members;
- a mounting region coupled to the first and second strut members opposite the load beam region, wherein a central aperture is formed bounded by the mounting region, the first and second strut members and the planar portion of the load beam region; and
- a layer of dampening material affixed to the planar portion of the load beam region between said first and second rails, said layer partially spanning the aperture.

38. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 37, further comprising a damping material support structure which partially supports said layer, the dampening material support structure comprising a cantilever projection which extends from the planar portion of the load beam region into the central aperture between the first and second struts.

39. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 37, further comprising a head suspended at one end of the planar portion of the load beam region opposite the mounting region.

40. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 37, wherein the mounting region is coupled to a rigid actuator arm.

41. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 37, wherein the damping material is secured to the planar portion of the load beam region symmetrically across a longitudinal axis.

42. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 37, wherein the damping material spans a plurality of isolation channels adjacent to the damping material support structure.

43. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 37, further comprising at least one mass adjustment area.

44. (Currently amended) A head suspension which supports a data transducer in a data exchange relationship with a storage medium, the head suspension comprising:

a mounting region configured for attachment to a rigid actuator arm;

a bend region extending from adjacent the mounting region comprising:

an aperture defined by a plurality of bend members; and

a cantilevered damping material support structure extending into the aperture

to define at least one isolation channel;

a load beam region adjacent the bend region defined by a plurality of stiffening

rails; and

a damping material secured to the load beam region between the stiffening rails and to the bend region partially spanning the damping material support structure and isolation channels so that a remaining portion of the damping material support structure and isolation channels are not spanned by said damping material.

45. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 44, further comprising a head suspended at one end of the planar portion of the load beam region opposite the mounting region.

46. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 44, wherein the mounting region is coupled to a rigid actuator arm.

47. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 44, wherein the damping material is secured to the planar portion of the load beam region symmetrically across a longitudinal axis.

48. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 44, wherein the damping material spans a plurality of isolation channels adjacent to the damping material support structure.

49. (Previously presented) The head suspension of claim 44, further comprising at least one mass adjustment area.